

WE CLAIM:

1 1. A vacuum manifold for interchangeably accommodating a multi-
2 well plate and one or a plurality of individual chromatography columns terminating in
3 male portions of male-female-type air-tight manually engageable connectors, said
4 vacuum manifold comprising:

5 a plate perforated with a plurality of through-passages, each
6 through-passage having embedded therein a female portion of said male-
7 female-type air-tight manually engageable connector;

8 a plurality of individually removable plugs, each said plug shaped
9 to mate with one of said female portions to form a substantially air-tight
10 closure of said through-passage; and

11 a receptacle with an open top and a port for drawing a partial
12 vacuum in said receptacle, said receptacle containing means for supporting
13 said plate across said open top.

1 2. Apparatus in accordance with claim 1 in which said means for
2 supporting said plate across said open top is a shoulder encircling said open top along an
3 inner edge of said open top.

1 3. An adapter for a vacuum manifold, which manifold is designed to
2 produce vacuum-induced flow through all wells of a multi-well laboratory plate, said
3 adapter rendering said vacuum manifold usable for producing vacuum-induced flow
4 through one or a plurality of individual chromatography columns terminating in male
5 portions of male-female-type air-tight manually engageable connectors, said adapter
6 comprising:

7 a plate whose lateral dimensions are substantially the same as those of said
8 multi-well laboratory plate, said plate having a plurality of through-passages, each
9 through-passage having embedded therein a female portion of said male-female-
10 type air-tight manually engageable connector; and

11 a plurality of individually removable plugs, each said plug shaped to mate
12 with one of said female portions embedded in said plate to form a substantially
13 air-tight closure of said through-passage.